

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
11 March 2004 (11.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/021284 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06T 11/00**,  
A61B 6/03

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2003/003384

(22) International Filing Date: 31 July 2003 (31.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
02078538.2 27 August 2002 (27.08.2002) EP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];  
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **VERDONCK, Bert**,  
L., A. [BE/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agent: **SCHOUTEN, Marcus, M.**; Philips Intellectual  
Property & Standards, Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA  
Eindhoven (NL).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

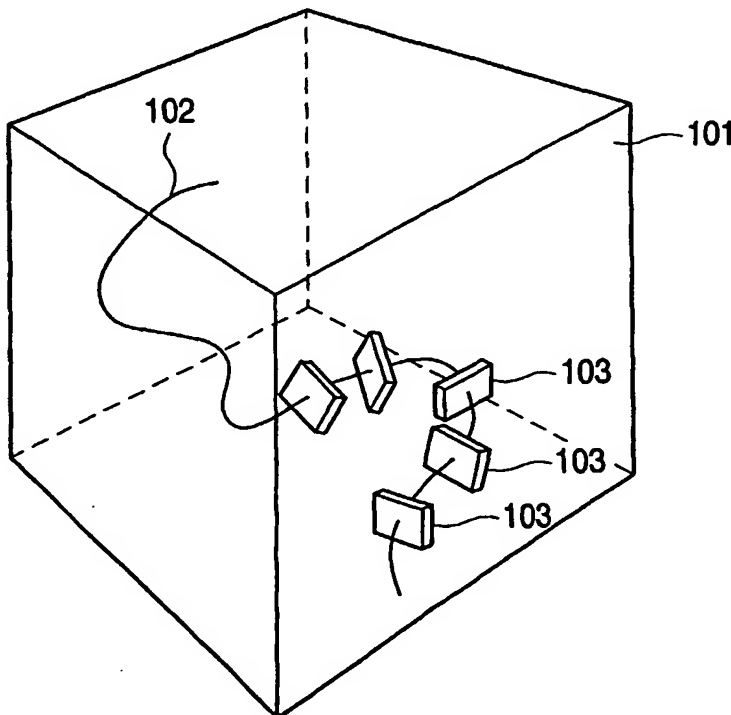
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH,

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(54) Title: METHOD OF STRAIGHTENING A REFORMAT FOR NAVIGATION AND QUANTIFICATION



(57) **Abstract:** A method of producing an improved straightened reformat is presented in which cross sections are calculated perpendicular to an elongate subject described within an object data set, a reference direction is determined in each cross sectional slice and a new object data set is created by concatenating the cross sectional slices, each cross sectional slice orientated so that the reference directions in the cross sectional slices are aligned. Various methods are presented by which the reference direction is determined within each cross sectional slice, including propagation from an original reference direction and optimization using determined reference directions as boundary conditions.